

City of Grass Valley – Parks and Recreation Commission

Gretchen Barretta, Chair
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May 29, 2007

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California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Central Valley Region
11020 Sun Center Drive, #200
Rancho Cordova, California 95670-6114

RE: Comments Regarding Draft Clean up and Abatement Order for Newmont USA Limited in Grass Valley

Dear Ms. Creedon:

The City of Grass Valley's Parks & Recreation Commission is pleased that the Regional Water Quality Control Board has issued a Draft Clean Up and Abatement Order ("Order") against Newmont. The City's Parks and Recreation Commission is very appreciative of the Board's decision to place the responsibility for this contamination on Newmont, where it belongs. The Drew Tunnel Clean Up and Abatement Order is a wonderful response to this serious threat to our community. We encourage the Water Board to require Newmont to meet all of the requirements set forth in the Order, and to do so in a timely manner. Requiring Newmont to take its water from Grass Valley's Wastewater Treatment Plant, as soon as possible will be a great service to our citizens.

Grass Valley has a parks and recreation system comprised of 108 acres of parkland that serves a planning area of approximately 20,000 residents. In addition to these parks, City residents also benefit from and enjoy the natural resources that surround the community. One of those natural resources is Wolf Creek. Given that Wolf Creek is such a valuable community asset and because the City's park system has already been affected by a similar mine discharge, the Parks and Recreation Commission supports the Draft Clean Up and Abatement Order issued by the Water Board.

We thank the Regional Board in advance of issuing a Clean Up and Abatement Order against Newmont Mine.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gretchen Barretta", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gretchen Barretta, Chairman
City of Grass Valley Parks and Recreation Commission

cc: City Council
Parks & Recreation Commission